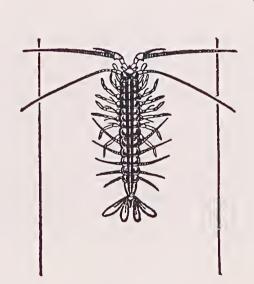
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Edited by C. B. TASSELL Director of the Museum





RARE OR THREATENED SPECIES FROM INLAND WATERS OF TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

F. B. Michaelis

Manuscript received 7/9/1984

Published 6/2/85

Rare or threatened species of aquatic biota in inland waters of Tasmania, Australia, are recorded and discussed. This is the first such list for a major region of Australia. The present study reports 39 species of which 34 are endemic to Tasmania: 1 plant; 4 molluscs; 14 crustacea (6 syncarids, 1 branchiuran, 5 isopods, 1 amphipod, 1 decapod); 15 insects (3 Odonata, 3 Plecoptera, 1 dipteran, 8 Trichoptera); 5 fish. In some insect and crustacean orders, e.g. Ephemeroptera and Amphipoda, a taxonomic impediment exists to defining species and hence their conservation status; the distributions of many other species are poorly known. However, greatest numbers of the above species are found in the Central Faunal Province (14 spp.) and the South-west Province (14 spp.). Threats to these species include impoundment of waters; drainage of lakes; removal of riparian vegetation; urban waterway pollution; and introduction of Brown Trout Salmo trutta. The proposed re-introduction of Atlantic Salmon Salmo salar to Tasmania should be a cause for concern. Conservation measures include fishing restrictions on the giant crayfish Astacopsis gouldi and the Derwent Whitebait Lovettia sealii but as yet there is little Federal or State legislation to protect aquatic invertebrates or native fish.

INTRODUCTION

The need for a list of species at risk in inland waters of Tasmania has arisen because of public concern about the possible destruction of inland habitats resulting from hydro-electric developments and forestry activities; increased interest in native fish and invertebrates; concern about further proposed introduction of salmonid fishes; recognition that endemic species at risk in Tasmania are at risk for the whole world and obligations to the international scientific community to provide data on the status of our aquatic biota.

In the following discussion, terminology for categories of conservation status follows International Union for Conservation of Nature (1983) viz.:

Extinct (Ex) — Taxa not definitely located in the wild during the last 50 years.

Endangered (E) — Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating.

Records of the Queen Victoria Museum No. 87.

Vulnerable (V) — Taxa believed likely to move into the 'Endangered' category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating.

Rare (R) — Taxa with small world populations that are not at present 'Endangered' or 'Vulnerable' but are at risk.

Insufficiently known (K) — Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories, because of lack of information.

The flora of Tasmanian inland waters contains a few endemic macrophytes but the phytoplankton is largely cosmopolitan. However, the fauna is of great biogeographical interest because of the number of endemic animals [Williams 1974; Neboiss 1977, 1981] including galaxid fishes (McDowall 1980).

The Tasmanian biota is threatened by pollution, land clearance, soil erosion and construction of dams for the generation of hydro-electricity. Detailed treatment of the conservation of Australian inland waters and their biota was given by Lake (1980) and, with regard to forestry practices particularly in Tasmania, by Michaelis (1984.) Rare or threatened Australian plants were listed by Leigh, Briggs and Hartley (1981) and included 18 aquatic macrophytes of which 2 are found in Tasmania.

The conservation status of the Australian insect fauna was studied by Key (1978) but no aquatic insects from Tasmania were mentioned. In a list of Australian animals at risk, Ride and Wilson (1982a, b) drew heavily on W. D. William's data and recorded 11 aquatic species from Tasmania (Table 1) and Williams (1983a) mentioned 22 Tasmanian aquatic species requiring conservation (Table 1). The IUCN Invertebrate Red Data Book (1983) presented 8 aquatic species known from Tasmania (of a total of 14 Australian aquatic species) as a result of contributions by 6 Australian authors (Table 1). There was some agreement between the species listed by IUCN (1983) and Williams (1983a).

The most complete listing to date, by Michaelis (1984) and Table 1, mentioned 31 aquatic species requiring conservation in Tasmania, and recorded 24 endemic species as rare or potentially endangered.

The present paper synthesises existing records of the conservation status of the Tasmanian aquatic biota. It forms part of a long-term field study, commenced in 1981, to investigate the possible effects of forest operations on Tasmania's inland waters.

RESULTS

A revised list of aquatic species in Tasmania considered by the author to be rare, endangered or vulnerable is presented in Table 2 and includes 34 species endemic to Tasmania of a total listing of 39 species. Of the plants, *Isoetes gunnii* which was listed by Michaelis (1984) and *Nymphoides exigu*a of Leigh et al. (1981) and Williams (1983a) were not retained. Of the animal species advanced by Ride and Wilson (1982b), Williams (1983a) and IUCN (1983), 8 out of 11 species, 16 out of 20 species and 8 out of 8 species respectively were retained by the author in the present report. Species deleted were *Glacidorbis pedderi*. *Coxiella striata*, *Lovettia sealii* and *Gadopsis marmoratus* (refer below). The main deficiencies in these previous listings, when compared with Michaelis (1984) and the present study, were in the isopods, molluscs and (where applicable) fish. A total of 21 species not included in the previous 3 lists referred to above have now been added by Michaelis (present study). This list will surely increase as many Australian species in nature become taxonomically understood and man's modification of inland waters continues.

Of the plants, Nymphoides exigua is not now considered rare although it is not common in Tasmania (A. E. Orchard, pers. comm.). However, Callitriche brachycarpa is retained as rare with four known localities (A. E. Orchard, pers. comm.), and there are other species in this genus whose distribution requires further study.

Of the invertebrates, the hydrobiid mollusc *Glacidorbis pawpela*, known only from Great Lake, is retained as rare (R. Kershaw, pers. comm.). Williams (1983a) stated that *G. pedderi* was known only from the lower Gordon River (and formerly Lake Pedder) but it is known from a very few [sic] widespread localities (Smith and Kershaw 1981) and is not retained.

The entire known Tasmanian population of Coxiella striata was considered endangered by Williams (1983a) on the basis of its Folly's Lagoon location (an inland saline lagoon) but Smith and Kershaw (1981) reported it from many coastal saline lagoons and it is not retained in the revised listing.

The planorbid mollusc *Ancylastrum cumingianus* is retained as endangered following the IUCN (1983) entry by B. J. Smith and both hyriid molluscs, *Velesunio meretonicus* and *Hyridella narracanensis*, known only from the South Esk catchment, are retained as rare in Tasmania although *H. narracanensis* is known from the southern Australian mainland.

There is agreement between all four authors that the five species of Tasmanian Anaspid Crustaceans are rare or vulnerable (Table 1) and again following IUCN (1983) entries by Swain, four of the five species are retained as vulnerable. It should be noted, however, that Anaspides tasmaniae, figured on the front cover of the Records of the Queen Victoria Museum, is the most widespread of the Anaspids. Koonunga cursor, whilst not endemic to Tasmania, is retained on the list, pending consideration by IUCN (Williams 1983a), and taxonomic revision.

The branchiuran *Dolops tasmanianus*, mentioned by Michaelis (1984), is known only from Lake Surprise, 2.5km south of Lake Pedder (Fryer 1969) and is listed as rare.

The four endemic species of phreatoicid isopod, known only from Great Lake (Fulton 1983) were mentioned by Michaelis (in press) and are here listed as rare, along with the non-endemic *Haloniscus searlei* known from about four localities (Ride and Wilson 1982a, Williams 1983b).

The amphipod, Paracalliope larai, is known only from the Dip River, north-west Tasmania (Knott 1975) and is here included in a list of rare species for the first time.

In the aquatic insects, the dragonfly *Synthemiopsis gomphomacromioides* mentioned by Williams (1983a) is added to the two species previously listed by Michaelis (1984) based on the detailed records by Allbrook (1979).

Three species of Plecoptera are here recorded as rare (Table 2). Eusthenia reticulata is undoubtedly the rarest of the Tasmanian Eustheniidae with one locality record in recent times from Dacrydium Creek, summit of Mt. McCall (Hynes in press). In the genus Kimminsoperla (Notonemouridae), K. biloba is known only from the King William saddle (Illies 1975, Hynes in press) and K. williamsi was reported from two localities by Illies (1975) and appears rare in spite of six further locality records (Hynes in press). Four undescribed species mentioned by Hynes (in press) may be rare but are not included in Table 2.

The Tasmanian Torrent Midge *Edwardsina tasmaniensis* has been the subject of discussion. Its type locality of the (South) Esk River, Launceston, presumably Cataract Gorge, was altered by diversion for hydro-electricity in 1956 and the species was described as extinct [sic] (Zwick 1981). However, it is now known to occur in the south west of Tasmania and the IUCN (1983) entry could perhaps be modified from endangered to vulnerable.

The eight species of Trichoptera retained in Table 2 are based on the adult records of A. Neboiss (1977, and pers. comm.) and collections of larvae of these species to identify habitat requirements are urgently needed. *Taskiria mccubbini* and *Taskiropsyche lacustris* have not been recorded since the flooding of Lake Pedder and should be entered in the IUCN listing as endangered in the sense of possibly extinct.

Of the vertebrates, five species of fish are recorded (Table 2), together with the authors from whose distribution records the conservation status was derived: Paragalaxias mesotes (McDowall and Frankenburg 1981, Fulton 1982b), Galaxias tanycephalus and G. johnstoni (McDowall and Frankenburg 1981); G fontanus (Fulton 1978); Prototroctes maraena (Bell et al. 1980). The three species of Galaxias were considered potentially endangered by Michaelis (in press) and are recorded here as vulnerable.

The distribution and/or abundance of Derwent Whitebait *Lovettia sealii* has been considerably reduced since the advent of European man in Australia (Ride and Wilson 1982a, Williams 1983a). As the species is not endangered (McDowall 1980) or considered rare (W. Fulton, pers. comm.), it is not retained in Table 2. The River Blackfish *Gadopsis marmoratus* has been regarded as vulnerable (Williams 1983a). Its range has been considerably reduced but it is still common in many areas (Jackson and Llewellyn 1980) and is not included in Table 2.

No Tasmanian species of frogs are under any immediate threat. Aquatic reptiles are not naturally found in Tasmania and platypus and eastern water rat are widespread and apparently secure. The endemic subspecies of the Azure Kingfisher Ceyx azureus diemenensis, which breeds in a hole drilled in the river bank, was considered vulnerable to streamside forestry activity (Michaelis 1984). Although widespread, it is not common.

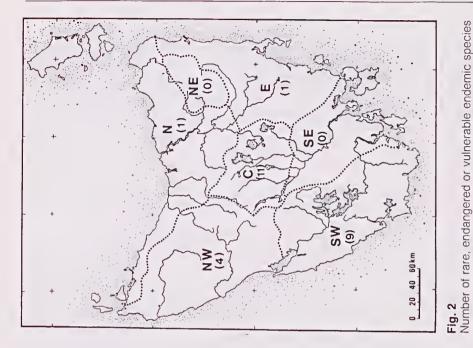
DISCUSSION

The present study highlighted the inadequacy of the IUCN (1983) listing with regard to aquatic invertebrates of the Australian region. Tasmanian records are far from complete and there are no listings from New Guinea, Lord Howe Island or New Zealand although several species are known to be rare, e.g. *Rakiura vernale* (Trichoptera: Helicopsychidae) in New Zealand. Australasian limnologists should be encouraged to contribute to the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Programme to rectify the situation.

The aquatic arthropods are important components of many Tasmanian freshwater ecosystems but insect conservation studies suffer a taxonomic impediment (Taylor 1976) to progress. Few of the larvae of the Trichoptera endemic to Tasmania (more than 70% of the total of 165 known species, Neboiss 1981) have been described and taxonomic resolution of the Tasmania Ephemeroptera and Orthocladine chironomids is low. The amphipods and parastacids in the genera *Engaeus*, *Geocharax* and *Parastacoides* are imperfectly known. The fact that no Ephemeroptera or minor orders of aquatic insects are listed here should not imply that there are no rare or endangered species but simply that further taxonomic research is urgently required.

There must be concern at loss of genetic variation when reduction in range occurs for non-endemic species. There are several species whose security as a whole is not in doubt because they are widespread on the Australian mainland but the known Tasmanian part of the population is rare, e.g. Freshwater mussel *Hydridella narracanensis*, isopod *Haloniscus searlei*, Syncarid crustacean *Koonunga cursor*, Dragonfly *Synthemis macrostigma orientalis* and the Southern grayling *Prototroctes maraena*. Their distributions by faunal province are shown in Fig. 1.

The distribution of these rare, vulnerable or endangered endemic species is interesting. However, the floristic regions numbered by Leigh et al. (1981) do not correspond exactly to the



confined to one faunal province of Tasmania arranged according to province. Faunal provinces after Neboiss (1977).

Occurence by faunal province of the five rare species in Tasmania that are not endemic. Faunal provinces after Neboiss (1977).

faunal provinces of Neboiss (1977). When arranged according to faunal province of current records, the greatest number of plant and animal species is found in the Central Province (14 species) and the South West Province (14 species). When species endemic to Tasmania and restricted to one faunal province are considered, the same pattern emerges (Fig. 2). The greatest number of species are recorded from the Central Province (11 species) then the South West (9 species) followed by the North West (4 species) and the North and East (1 species each). No species were recorded only from the North East nor the South East. This pattern may reflect the areas of greatest endemism of the Tasmanian aquatic fauna e.g. Trichoptera in the North West, South West and Central Provinces (Neboiss 1977) or it may be an artefact due to the long term interest in the Central Plateau region; recent collecting in the South West prompted by hydro-electric developments; or the relative inaccessibility of the North West region.

In spite of the lack of knowledge, two main reasons have been advanced for the reduction in range of these aquatic animals: habitat destruction and introduced predators.

The removal of vegetation along streams has been recognised as a factor contributing to the decline of Southern Grayling *Prototroctes maraena* (McDowall 1976) and the giant crayfish *Astacopsis gouldi* [Riek 1981 unpublished, cited by IUCN (1983)].

Dam construction for hydro-electric schemes has been blamed for the presumed extinction of the Tasmanian blepharocerid midge *Edwardsina tasmaniensis* at its type locality Esk River, Launceston (presumably Cataract Gorge on the South Esk River) (Zwick 1981) by diversion of water; alterations in water level in Great Lake could effectively eliminate *Paranaspides lacustris* (Fulton 1982a); construction of impoundments may have contributed to the decline of *Prototroctes maraena* (Bell *et al.* 1980). Drainage of inland saline lagoons for agricultural purposes could affect the status of inland populations of the snail *Coxiella striata* and habitat destruction by urban waterway pollution continues even in rural Tasmania threatening the locality of *Haloniscus searlei* (Williams 1983b).

Introduced predators have been held responsible for the decline of many species in Tasmania. Brown Trout *Salmo trutta* has been implicated in the decline of the Tasmanian syncarid crustacean *Anaspides tasmaniae* (Knott, Suter and Richardson 1978), Swan River galaxias *Galaxias fontanus* (*Fulton 1978*) and Southern Grayling *Prototroctes maraena* (McDowall 1976). Fears are held for the remaining population of *Galaxias fontanus* if Brown Trout are introduced to the Swan River headwaters above Hardings Falls (Fulton 1978). The introduced Brook Char (or Brook Trout) *Salvelinus fontinalis* (Mitchill) persists as a viable population only in Clarence Lagoon where the Clarence galaxias *G. johnstoni* is considered endangered (McDowall and Tilzey 1980). It is for these reasons that the author is concerned about the impending re-introduction of the Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* to Tasmania.

Man has overfished two species leading to fishing restrictions being imposed by the Inland Fisheries Commission for the giant crayfish *Astacopsis gouldi* and the commercial fishery being closed for the Derwent whitebait *Lovettia sealii* (McDowall 1980).

There is a need to conserve aquatic habitats for the protection of endangered species. Project Aqua was an attempt by the International Biological Programme to list the significant inland waters of the world proposed for conservation. For Australia in 1970, only standing waters were proposed and included seven Tasmanian lake regions and one wetland. By contrast, the New Zealand entries included a cold spring, a thermal reserve, thermal and temperate lakes and rivers. This difference reflected the range of limnological studies in New Zealand at that time compared to Australia, as well as the significance of the waters. Urgent steps are needed to record and adequately reserve a variety of Australia's running waters e.g. cave streams, temporary streams, mound springs and large rivers.

In Tasmania, a reserve was established at Caroline Creek in 1968 to study *Astacopsis gouldi* and it is intended that a reserve will be proclaimed over part of the upper Swan River in conjunction with a proposed flora reserve (W. Fulton, pers. comm.). These aquatic reserves extend on either side of the river but do not secure the catchment from disturbance. Unfortunately, sites within National Parks are not automatically protected from disturbance by the Hydro Electric Commission e.g. Lake St. Clair in Lake St. Clair-Cradle Mountain National Park; Lake Pedder formerly in Lake Pedder National Park but now flooded and bordered by the Southwest National Park, Southwest Conservation Area and land vested with the Hydro Electric Commission.

There is a need to protect the species discussed above directly. No endangered aquatic invertebrates have yet been scheduled by Commonwealth (or State) legislation. In Tasmania, 12 species of cave-adapted invertebrates are wholly protected under the Wildlife Regulations 1971 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970 (Parliament of Tasmania 1971) thus setting a precedent for such legislation.

As for the endangered fish, the Southern Grayling *Prototroctes maraena* is one of three freshwater fish species currently included on the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) official list of Australian Endangered Vertebrates (Attachment A), under the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982. In Tasmania, the grayling has long been scheduled as a protected fish (Parliament of Tasmania, Inland Fisheries Regulations 1973). It is the only Tasmanian inland fish with that status; the other four galaxiid species in Table 2 have no legislative protection.

The platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* is wholly protected and the water rat is partly protected in Tasmania under the Wildlife Regulations 1971 of the National Parks and Wildlife-Act 1970 (Parliament of Tasmania 1971).

A discussion of whether these species are adequately conserved is beyond the scope of the present study. However, until basic research is carried out on their biology, conservation measures suggested will be based on intuition rather than knowledge.

The apparent lack of communication between scientists in preparing previously published lists of rare and endangered animals species necessitated this synthesis, which will be useful to biogeographers as well as those concerned with managing the aquatic environment. With time, there will be a need to revise this list, and further suggestions and amendments would be welcomed by the author. It is hoped this paper will stimulate the production of similar lists for other regions of Australasia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was funded by the Forest Ecology Research Fund of Tasmania.

The following contributors greatly assisted the study: W. Fulton, Inland Fisheries Commission (Crustacea, Fish): R. C. Kershaw, Oueen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston, and Museum of Victoria (Molluscs); A. Neboiss, Museum of Victoria (Trichoptera); A. E. Orchard, Tasmanian Herbarium (Plants).

I would thank the many people who have commented on the manuscript: Prof. J. D. Ovington, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service; Dr. J. Leigh, Division of Plant Industry, C.S.I.R.O.; Dr. M. J. Brown and Mr. D. E. Rounsevell, National Parks and Wildlife Service of Tasmania; Dr. A. E. Orchard, Tasmanian Herbarium; Dr. A. M. M. Richardson, Zoology Department, University of Tasmania

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Table 1

Conservation Status of aquatic macrophytes, invertebrates and vertebrates in Tasmania, taken from various authors. Endangered (E), Vulnerable (V), Rare (R), Species discussed but not assigned a rarity value are ticked (\checkmark); species endemic to Tasmania are marked with an asterisk (*); Not Applicable (NA).

Species	Leigh, Briggs and Hartley (1981)	Aut IUCN (1983)	Williams (1983a)	Michaelis (1984)
Plantae				
Isoetaceae				
* Isoetes gunnii		NA		R
		INA		* 1
Menyanthaceae *Nymphoides exigua	V	NA	V	
Callitrichaceae	V	INA	V	
	√	NIA	√	
Callitriche brachycarpa	•	NA	~	
Invertebrata				
Mollusca: Hydrobiidae	NA		Е	
* Glacidorbis pedderi			_	В
* G pawpela	NA		Е	R
Coxiella striata	NA		E	
Mollusca: Planorbidae	NIA	_		П
* Ancylastrum cumingianus	NA	E		R
Mollusca: Hyriidae	A.I.A.			Б
* Velesunio moretonicus	NA			R
Hyridella narracanensis				
Crustacea: Syncarida				_
* Allanaspides helonomus	NA	V	V	R
* A. hickmani	NA	V	V	R
* Anaspides spinulae	NA	V	V	R
A. tasmaniae	NA	V	V	R
* Paranaspides lacustris	NA	V	V V?	R
Koonunga cursor	NA		V?	✓
Crustacea: Branchiura	NIA			,
* Dolops tasmanianus	NA			✓
Crustacea: Isopoda	NIA			,
* Mesacanthotelson setosus	NA			✓ ✓
* Onthotelson brevicaudatus	NA			~
* O. spatulatus	NA NA			~
* Uramphisopus pearsoni Haloniscus searlei	NA NA		Ε	•
Crustacea: Decapoda	INA		L	
* Astacopsis gouldi	NA	V	V	✓
Insecta: Odonata	INA	V	•	·
* Archipetalia auriculata	NA		at risk	R
* Synthemiopsis	147 (atnon	* "
gomphomacromioides	NA	٠	at risk	
Synthemis macrostigma			a. non	
orientalis	NA			R
Insecta: Diptera	, ,			. ,
* Edwardsina tasmaniensis	NA	E	Е	
Insecta: Trichoptera				
* Taskiria mccubbini	NA		at risk	V

Species	Leigh, Briggs and Hartley (1981)	Au IUCN (1983)	thor Williams (1983a)	Michaelis (1984)
* Taskiropsyche lacustris * Archaeophylax vernalis * Westriplectes pedderensis * Stenopsychodes lineata * Tasmanoplegas spilota * Nanoplectus truchanasi * Ramiheithrus kocinus Vertebrata: Pisces	NA NA NA NA NA NA		at risk at risk E	V R R R R
* Paragalaxias mesotes * Galaxias tanycephalus * G. johnstoni * G. fontanus * Lovettia sealii Prototroctes maraena Gadopsis marmoratus	NA NA NA NA NA NA	NA NA NA NA NA NA	✓ V V	R E E E

Table 2

species are marked with an asterisk (*)	erisk (*).		
Family/Species	Common Name	e Distribution	Status in Tasmania
PLANTAE Callitrichaceae			
* Callitriche brachycarpa INVERTEBRATA	Starwort	North, north-west and south-west Rare	Rare
Mollusca: Hydrobiidae		- + 0	Ç
Giaciuolois pawpeia Mollusca: Planorbidae		Great Lane	מ מ
* Ancylastrum cumingianus Mollusca, Hyriidae		Great Lake, Lake St. Clair	Endangered
* Velesunio moretonicus		South Esk catchment	Rare
Hyridella narracanensis		South Esk catchment and southern mainland	Rare
Crustacea: Syncarida	Anaspid		
* Allanaspides helonomus		Lake Pedder and 6.5 km north	Vulnerable
* A. hickmani		6.5 km north of Lake Pedder	Vulnerable
* Anaspides spinulae		Lake St. Clair	Vulnerable
* A. tasmaniae		Widely distributed in alpine and sub-alpine waters	Rare
* Paranaspides lacustris		Great Lake, Shannon Lagoon, Penstock Lagoon, Woods Lake,	
Koonunga cursor		Arthurs Lake Northern Tasmania	Vuinerable Rare
Crustacea: Branchiura * Dolops tasmanianus			Rare
Crustacea: Isopoda * Mesacarithofelson setosus * Onthofelson brevicaudatus		Great Lake Great Lake	Rare Rare

Status in Tasmania	Rare Rare Rare	Rare	Vulnerable	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare Rare	Vulnerable	Endangered Endangered	Rare	Rare
le Distribution	Great Lake Great Lake Inland saline lagoons	Dip River	North coast	Montane regions and lower altitudes in west	Swampy button grass plains	Montane swamps	Mt. McCall	King William Saddle Lake Dove, 30 km west Hobart	South-west	Lake Pedder Lake Pedder	Lake Pedder	South-west
Common Name			Giant Freshwater Crayfish									,
Family/Species	* O. spatulatus * Uramphisopus pearsoni Haloniscus searlei	 Crustacea: Amphipoda Paracalliope larai Crustacea: Decanoda 	* Aslacopsis gouldi	Insecta: Odonata * Archipetalia auriculata	* Synthemiopsis gomphomacromioides	Syntrems macrosigna orientalis Insecta: Plecoptera	Eustheniidae * Eusthenia reticulata Notonemouridae	* Kimminsoperla biloba * K. williamsi	Insecta: Diptera: **Edwardsina tasmaniensis Insecta: Trichoptera	Taskiria mccubbini Taskiriopsyche facustris	* Archaeophylax vernalis	Westriplectes pedderensis

Status in Tasmania	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare	à.	Rare		Rare		Endarigered	Sec.	Endangered ~	Endangered
Distribution	North-west	North-west and south-west	South-west	North-west		Tasmania: eastern and southern Australia		Arthurs Lake Woods Lake		Arthurs Lake, Woods Lake		Clarence River and Lagoon	Swan River headquarters
Common Name						Southern Grayling	,	Arthur's Paradalaxias	Saddled	Galaxias	Clarence	Galaxias	Swan Galaxias
Family/Species	Stenopsychidae * Stenopsychodes lineata	Folycentropodioae * Tasmanoplegas spilota Plectrotarsidae	* Nanoplectrus truchanasi Philorheithridae	* Ramiheithrus kocinus Vertebrata: Pisces	Prototroctidae	Prototroctes maraena	Galaxiidae	* Paragalaxias mesotes	* Galaxias tanycephalus		* G. johnstoni		* G. fontanus